DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 30, 2009 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Howard Sobelman on July 22, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A system for ~~(facilitating a change in distance between objects)~~ the fixation of a bone fracture having a first bone portion and a second bone portion, said system including:

a head component having a tip, cutting threads, fastening threads, and a tool attachment, wherein said cutting threads are operable for insertion into and termination within ~~(an object)~~

said first bone portion, wherein said fastening threads are operable for mating with a thread formed by said cutting thread, and wherein said tool attachment is operable to receive a cannulated driver;

a flexible wire comprised of a thin metal having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration having a plurality of sawteeth, wherein said flexible wire is bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, wherein said sawtooth configuration is configured such that one side of each tooth is substantially perpendicular to a surface of said wire and the other side of said sawtooth is substantially angular to said surface of said wire; and,

a cap which includes threads on an outside surface to facilitate rotating said cap into (~~a first object~~) said second bone portion, and wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from (~~a second object~~) said second bone portion, wherein said cap is configured to mate with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with a portion of said inverse sawtooth configuration sliding over a portion of said sawtooth configuration, wherein said sawtooth configuration and said inverse sawtooth configuration are configured to allow said cap to translate along said wire in only one direction, and wherein said inverse sawtooth configuration includes a plurality of inverse teeth, and wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~(7)~~ 3, further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.

Claims 11-13, 22-24, and 26 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the Prior Art does not disclose or suggest a system for treating bone fractures comprising:

a head component having a tip, cutting threads, fastening threads, and a tool attachment, wherein said cutting threads are operable for insertion into and termination within said first bone portion, wherein said fastening threads are operable for mating with a thread formed by said cutting thread, and wherein said tool attachment is operable to receive a cannulated driver;

a flexible wire comprised of a thin metal having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration having a plurality of sawteeth, wherein said flexible wire is bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, wherein said sawtooth configuration is configured such that one side of each tooth is substantially perpendicular to a surface of said wire and the other side of said sawtooth is substantially angular to said surface of said wire; and,

a cap which includes threads on an outside surface to facilitate rotating said cap into said second bone portion, and wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said second bone portion, wherein said cap is configured to mate with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with a portion of said inverse sawtooth configuration sliding over a portion of said sawtooth configuration, wherein said sawtooth configuration and said inverse sawtooth configuration are configured to allow said cap to translate along said wire in only one direction, and wherein said inverse sawtooth configuration includes a plurality of inverse teeth, and wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javier G. Blanco whose telephone number is 571-272-4747. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.), first Friday of the bi-week off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on **(571)272-4749**. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Javier G. Blanco/

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/David H Willse/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3738